

## The Alexandria Gazette

TUESDAY EVEN'G, DECEMBER 23.

Hon. James A. Pearce, U. S. Senator from Maryland, died at his residence, in Chestertown, on Saturday, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. Mr. Pearce has been in a delicate state of health for some time, and for the last two months suffered greatly from disease of the heart. "His sickness was endured with much patience and resignation, and he passed away in great peace of mind and with the hope of a blissful immortality." The Baltimore American says:—Mr. Pearce was born in Alexandria, Virginia; though descended from a Maryland family. He graduated at Princeton College with high honor and was bred to the law, though he did not actively pursue that profession. He entered public life as a member of the Maryland Legislature in 1831. In 1836 he was elected as a Representative in Congress and continued in that position, with an interval of two years, till 1843. In the latter year he was elected to the U. S. Senate, and continued to serve as Senator until his death. During the most part of his political life Mr. Pearce was an earnest Whig of the Henry Clay school. When the Whig party ceased to exist, he acted with the Democratic party, and his last re-election to the Senate was by a Democratic Legislature.

In the Senate of the Legislature at Wheeling, on the 18th inst., Senate Bill No. 9 was taken up and read the second time. It is an act to stay the collection of certain debts in the counties of Accomac and Northampton. On motion of Mr. Close, the counties of Alexandria, Fairfax and Jackson were added thereto. The bill thus amended was ordered to be engrossed.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer says, that "the Cabinet difficulty is not yet ended"—but that the Republican Senators, though baffled, for the present, will renew their efforts to oust Mr. Seward and Mr. Blair.

The Washington Republican says that "Gen. Burnside's report will strike the country with profound astonishment—that the "responsibility he has assumed will be more than he can bear," &c., &c.

It is said, we know not on what authority, that a majority of the Cabinet are opposed to the bill for creating the proposed new State of West Virginia.

Robt. C. Newman and George Coleman, both of Fairfax County, arrested in October last, have been released from the Old Capitol prison.

Poultry, dear enough before, this morning went up considerably. They were asking for Turkeys, from \$1.50 to \$3.50. Poultry is much cheaper in Washington than here.

The weather has moderated considerably, and the ice in the river is disappearing.

Advertisements for the Gazette received at the Printing Office, on King street, over French's Book Store, or at No. 24, South Royal street. The Gazette is a home journal, and valuable as an advertising medium, for those who have goods to sell, or who are engaged in business.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S REPORT.  
HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
Dec. 19, 1862.

Gen. H. W. Halleck, Gen. in-Chief, U. S. A.

GENERAL: I have the honor to offer the following reasons for moving the Army of the Potomac across the Rappahannock sooner than was anticipated by the President, Secretary, or yourself, and for crossing at a point different from the one indicated by you at our last meeting at the President's.

During my preparations for crossing at the place I had first selected, I discovered that the enemy had thrown a large portion of his force down the river and elsewhere, thus weakening his defence in front; and also thought I discovered that he did not anticipate the crossing of our whole force at Fredericksburg, and I hoped by rapidly throwing the whole command over at that place, to separate by a vigorous attack the forces of the enemy on the river below from the forces behind and on the crest in rear of the town; in which case we could fight him with a great advantage in our favor.

To do this, we had to gain a height on the extreme right of the crest, which height commanded a new road lately made by the enemy for purposes of more rapid communication along his lines; which point gained, his position along the crest would have been scarcely tenable, and he could have been driven from thence easily by an attack on his front in connection with a movement in rear of the crest. How near we came to accomplishing our object, future reports will show.

But for the fog and unexpected and unavoidable delay in building the bridges, which gave the enemy twenty-four hours more to concentrate his force in his strong positions, we would almost certainly have succeeded, in which case the battle would have been, in my opinion, far more decisive than if we had crossed at the place first selected.

As it was, we came very near success. Failing in accomplishing the main object, we remained in order of battle two days, long enough to decide that the enemy would not come out of his strongholds to fight us with his infantry. After which we crossed to this side of the river unmolested and without the loss of men or property.

As the day broke, and long lines of troops were seen marching to their different positions as if getting on parade, not the least demoralization or disorganization existed.

To the brave officers and soldiers who accomplished the feat of thus recrossing in the face of the enemy, I owe everything: for the failure in the attack I am responsible; as the extreme gallantry, courage and endurance shown by them were never exceeded, and would have carried the point had it been possible.

To the families and friends of the dead I can only offer my heartfelt sympathies; but for the wounded I can offer my heartfelt prayers for their comfort and final recovery.

The fact that I decided to move from Warrenton on to this line, rather against the opinion of the President, Secretary and yourself, and that you have left the whole movement in my hands without giving me orders, makes me the more responsible.

I will write you very soon, and give you more definite information; and, finally, will send you my detailed report, in which a special acknowledgement will be made of the service of the different grand division corps; and my general and personal staff departments.

To the army of the Potomac, to whom I am so much indebted for their support and hearty co-operation, I will add here that the movement was made here earlier than you expected and after the President, Secretary and yourself requested me not to be in haste, for the reason that we were supplied much sooner by the different staff departments than was anticipated when I last saw you.

Our killed amounts to eleven hundred and fifty-two; our wounded about nine thousand; and our prisoners about seven hundred, which have been paroled and exchanged for about the same number taken by us. The wounded were all removed to this side of the river before the evacuation, and are being well cared for, and the dead were all buried under the flag of truce.

The surgeons report a much larger proportion than usual of slight wounds, sixteen hundred and thirty only being located in hospitals.

I am glad to represent this army at the present time in good condition.

Thanking the Government for that entire support and confidence which I have always received from them, I remain, General, your obt. servt.,

A. B. BURNSIDE,  
Maj. Gen. Comd'g Army of Potomac.

The question of the intermarriage of deaf mutes was the subject of a paper recently read before the French Academy of Sciences by Dr. Boudin who took the ground that the infirmity is not hereditary. The parents of deaf and dumb children, he observed, are generally in perfect health, and moreover deaf and dumb parents not connected with each other by ties of consanguinity, very rarely have deaf and dumb children.

The coal schooner Sarah Enge, of Philadelphia, is now undergoing repairs. A few days since she was struck by a rifled cannon near Brandywine Hill, on the Rappahannock. The shot passed through the roof of the cabin, and out through a side window, and then overboard through the bulwarks, just clear of the main deck. A remarkable incident is, that Capt. S. A. Simmons, of the coal schooner "Cadosh," whose vessel was lying with the gunboats near the Confederate battery had taken refuge on board the Sarah Enge, and was on the main deck, behind the cabin, in direct range of this shot, which killed him almost instantly, whilst his own vessel came out without having sustained any injury.

Mayor Opdyke, of N. Y., has "shut down" on the issue of shinplasters by the Common Council, vetoing the ordinance adopted by that body, providing for the manufacture and circulation of some thousands of dollars in paper of the fractional parts of a dollar. His Honor gently suggests to the City Fathers that the of paper money is not, properly, one of their functions; but even if it were; he argues that as the United States Government is now furnishing paper money in small denominations, corporation currency is not demanded.

The vacancy occasioned by Mr. Pearce's death will be filled by appointment of the Governor of Maryland until the legislature meets. The term for which he was elected does not expire until 1867.

From Richmond it is stated that Gov. Letcher has determined that the Union prisoners recently taken by General Floyd shall remain in solitary confinement in the penitentiary until Colonel Thomas, alias Zarvona, now imprisoned in like manner at Fort Lafayette shall be set at liberty by President Lincoln.

Two houseless wanderers froze to death, last Sunday, in Brooklyn.